



September 14, 2015

This issue contains guidance documents relevant to current public health events and information from **August 31 – September 14**.

COCA Updates are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions may occur when there is emergency information or an event-specific update to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **September 28**.

For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

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[COCA Home Page](#)

Topics and Highlights

[COCA News and Announcements](#)

[CDC Emergency Response](#)

[CDC News and Announcements](#)

[Public Health Preparedness](#)

[Natural Disasters and Severe Weather](#)

[Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#)

[Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease](#)

[Travel Safety](#)

[Food, Drug and Device Safety](#)

COCA News and Announcements

Upcoming COCA Webinars/Calls:

Weathering the Storm — Understanding the Mental Health Impact of Hurricane Sandy

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Dial In Number: 888-469-1370 (U.S. Callers); 517-308-9218 (International Callers)

Passcode: 3791890

Webinar: www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW5219511&p=3791890&t=c

Hurricane Sandy was an unprecedented natural disaster that resulted in deaths, injuries, and other disaster-related health effects. A substantial number of people exposed to the storm experienced mental health problems to include, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and serious psychological distress. Research conducted by Project LIGHT, a collaborative effort between Mount Sinai, North Shore-LIJ and the Nassau County Department of Human Services, and the New York City Health Department examined mental health effects of the storm and identified subgroups of individuals who were most vulnerable to the hurricane mental health effects. The research was conducted through the application of multiple methodologies including the collection of survey data from residents of affected areas as well as analysis of Emergency Department data. During the COCA Call, participants will learn about a natural disaster related epidemiologic studies focusing on mental health issues. Participants will also hear about the implications of these findings on disaster preparedness and response activities and how clinicians can help address mental health among those impacted by disasters.

emergencylink.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2015/callinfo_091715.asp

The Role of Clinicians in Addressing the Opioid Overdose Epidemic

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Dial In Number: 888-469-1370 (U.S. Callers); 517-308-9218 (International Callers)

Passcode: 3791890

Webinar: www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW5219519&p=3791890&t=c

The nonmedical use of prescription opioids and the use of the illicit opioid heroin cause significant morbidity and mortality in the United States. Recent data indicate these public health problems are intertwined with one another

and require a coordinated response between public health, healthcare providers, public safety, and the community. During this COCA Call, participants will learn about the drivers of the increases in opioid-related morbidity and mortality and steps clinicians can take to reverse these concerning trends.

emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2015/callinfo_092415.asp

Recent COCA Webinars/Calls:

CRE and *C. difficile*: Is Your Healthcare Facility Implementing the Necessary Approach to Stop the Spread?

Date: Thursday, August 20, 2015

emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2015/callinfo_052815.asp

Archived COCA conference calls are available at emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/index.asp.

Free continuing education credits (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) are available for most calls. For more information about free CE, visit emergency.cdc.gov/coca/continuingeducation.asp

CDC Emergency Response – CDC Response to 2014 Ebola in the United States and West Africa

UPDATE: Public Health Resources

www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/public-health-resources/index.html

UPDATE: Case Counts

www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html

CDC News and Announcements

UPDATE: National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, and more than 3,000 organizations across the nation will join CDC in encouraging Americans to take action to be prepared. This year, CDC will focus on communities of preparedness and will target messaging and products to the following groups:

- Week one: Family
- Week two: Neighborhood
- **Week three: Workplace and School**

Whether you are at work or home or your child is in school it is important for individuals to know specific threats and hazards in their area, emergency signals, evacuation routes, and locations of shelters in their community. We will encourage people to maintain an emergency preparedness kit at work and discuss disaster plans with their co-workers.

- **Week four: Global**

With the ease of air travel, infectious diseases can spread rapidly. Global health security is an ongoing priority that requires individuals to be aware of their health and safety when they are travelling abroad. Messages will focus on preparing for public health threats before, during, and after travel to protect everyone's health.

- Final four days: Online Social Media Community

For each topic in September, CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR) plans to release Public Health Matters blog posts, social media messages (including a Twitter chat and a Thunderclap), and graphics. Visit CDC's National Preparedness Month web page for links to all of its National Preparedness Month content.

emergency.cdc.gov/npm/index.asp

CDC Science Clips: Volume 7, Issue: 36 – (CDC)

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

www.cdc.gov/library/sciclips/issues/

Public Health Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)

Find preparedness resources for all hazards.

emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)

Find online and in-person training resources at

emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – (CDC)

emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp

Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)

emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html

September 11, 2015 / Vol. 64 / No. 35 [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [National Preparedness Month — September 2015](#)
- [Influences of Preparedness Knowledge and Beliefs on Household Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [CDC Grand Rounds: Addressing Preparedness Challenges for Children in Public Health Emergencies](#)
- [Injuries and Traumatic Psychological Exposures Associated with the South Napa Earthquake — California, 2014](#)
- [Elimination of Ebola Virus Transmission in Liberia — September 3, 2015](#)
- [Ebola Virus Disease — Sierra Leone and Guinea, August 2015](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Pneumonia Associated with an Influenza A H3 Outbreak at a Skilled Nursing Facility — Florida, 2014](#)
- [Notice to Readers: The Effect of Falsified *Clostridium difficile* Infections Surveillance Data on Results Reported in MMWR](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne, and Zoonotic Diseases

Seasonal Influenza

What You Should Know for the 2014-2015 Influenza Season

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2014-2015.htm>

Information for Health Professionals

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm>

Weekly Flu View – September 9 (CDC)

Flu View is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC's Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)

Healthcare providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist healthcare providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html

Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – September 11 (U.S. Department of State)

The U.S. Department of State issues Travel Warnings when long-term, protracted conditions make a country dangerous or unstable. Travel Warnings recommend that Americans avoid or carefully consider the risk of travel to that country. The State Department also issues Travel Warnings when the U.S. government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of State Department staff.

travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html

Food, Drug, and Device Safety

NEW: FDA Investigates Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Poona Linked to Cucumbers – (FDA)

The FDA, CDC, and state and local officials are investigating a multistate outbreak of Salmonella Poona linked to “slicer” cucumbers, supplied by Andrew and Williamson Fresh Produce and grown in Baja, Mexico. This type of cucumber can also be called “American” cucumbers.

www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm461317.htm

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (FDA)

MedWatch is your Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm

FoodSafety.gov: Reports of FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting, and Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)

Foodsafety.gov lists notices of recalls and alerts from both FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Visitors to the site can report a problem or make inquiries.

www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html

[Return to Top of Page](#)

For information about this update or other clinical issues, or to send your feedback, please contact us at

coca@cdc.gov

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) – real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers

[COCA RSS Feed](#) – subscribe to be notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication Training](#) – training program that draws from lessons learned during public health emergencies, and incorporates best practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication

[Health Alert Network](#) – CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories



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